

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Relaxation of Government Interference in Religious Pilgrimage	DATE DISTR.	12 October 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	50X1-HUM

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

50X1-HUM

1. Every year, in June or July, it has been the custom for a religious pilgrimage to take place from the Gdansk (Danzig) suburb of Oliwa to the "Calvary" at Wejherowo. The pilgrimage, which proceeds on foot, is joined by further bands of pilgrims from parishes which it passes en route. The pilgrimage is very popular and is always attended by large numbers of people.
2. In 1952 the regime authorities closed all the food shops, restaurants, canteens and similar places of refreshment at Wejherowo on the day of the pilgrimage, and forbade the erection of booths where the pilgrims could eat or get some refreshments.
3. In 1953, in spite of the unpleasant memories of the year before, the number of pilgrims was much larger (estimated at twice the number). To the surprise of the participants, all food shops, restaurants and canteens in Wejherowo were open, and the militia kept an eye on the shopkeepers in order to prevent them from raising prices, taking advantage of the influx of such large numbers of people.
4. It is reported that since early in 1953 the attendance of the faithful at church functions has considerably increased, and that the authorities are no longer putting obstacles in the way of religious observances.

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)